

03/03/2021

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in **opposition** for **H.B. 6355** AN ACT CONCERNING RISK PROTECTION ORDERS OR WARRANTS

As a firearm owner I am very concerned about the extensive list of authorized petitioners. There are people on that list that have nothing to do with my life, do not know me and should not be able to make decisions about my right to bear arms. Just because someone is related to me does not mean they are qualified to make judgement about me. Notably in my case my mother and her family.

When I was 14 years old I moved out of my mother's house to live with my father. Ever since then I have had an estranged and difficult relationship with my mother. This includes ugly legal battles. While our relationship is polite currently. In the past there was always the feeling that anything and everything could be used against my father and myself. I can still remember my father being served a court summons by a federal marshall completely out of the blue and un-announced with no prior communication from my mother. Her brother is a lawyer so it was easy for her to try and use the legal system to achieve her ends. I have less than fond memories of talking with my grandmother trying to figure out how we were going to pay our legal bills. After I turned 18 I felt finally free that she no longer had any control over my life. Not to say she hasn't tried.

There was an incident two years ago when her mother passed away and I did not attend the funeral. Even though we haven't lived together for almost a decade, and she isn't involved in my life in the slightest, my mother still took it upon herself to call my father and berate him about me not attending. Instead of talking to me directly, she tried to convince my father that I was a sick person and that I needed professional mental help. Needless to say I disagree.

Incidents like this show me that she has no problem making assertions about me or my mental state from afar, even though she has no involvement in my life. If this bill were enacted it could yet again give her some control. As she grows older and more desperate I do not doubt that she could convince herself that I am a danger to myself or others.

My step-father would also be counted as an authorized petitioner. I barely know this man. Many of his relatives, many who I have never met, would also be considered authorized petitioners. **I do not believe that someone who I essentially do not know, should have any power over my ability to exert my rights.** That is not to say that this is my only concern about the bill. **I believe It subverts due process, and I oppose the whole thing across the board.**

Thank you,  
Benjamin Palizza  
Vernon Resident